

Cop accused of killing girlfriend, unborn baby

CANTON, Ohio (AP) - Patricia Porter stood up from her front-row courtroom seat and stared at the man charged with murdering her daughter and the nearly full-term fetus she carried.

About 20 feet away, Bobby Cutts Jr., her daughter's boyfriend, held his head high and scanned the audience several times during his brief hearing in Canton Municipal Court.

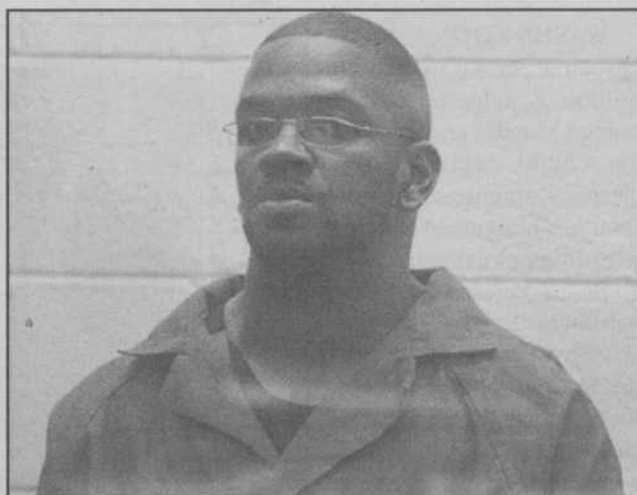
They made eye contact at one point, Porter said afterward.

"I'm not sitting down when I see Bobby Cutts," she said. "I can't really verbalize what was going through my mind, but I wanted to make sure he knew I was there."

Jessie Davis, 26, was missing for about a week before her body was found in a park Saturday. Cutts is the father of her 2-year-old son, and Davis' relatives have said he is the father of the girl she was due to deliver July 3 and planned to name Chloe.

Cutts, 30, a police officer in this northeast Ohio city, was arrested the same day the body was found. He remained expressionless when Judge John Poulos on Monday ordered him held on \$5 million bond.

Porter stood up again and



Bobby Cutts Jr. stands behind a window separating him from a courtroom, Monday, June 25, 2007, in Canton, Ohio. Cutts, accused of murdering his pregnant girlfriend and her nearly full-term fetus, remained expressionless when a judge ordered him held on a \$5 million bond.

stared when one of Cutts' high school classmates appeared, accused of lying to investigators about the case. Myisha Ferrell, 29, was ordered held on \$500,000 bond on a count of obstruction of justice.

Both Cutts and Ferrell stood behind a window separating them from the courtroom, which is standard procedure for initial court appearances.

Cutts' attorney, Bradley Iams, declined to discuss details of the charges against his client or what Cutts said to him during the brief appearance in Municipal Court. He

said it was too early to say whether any trial should be moved out of Stark County, and he was not surprised by the bond amount.

A man who only described himself as Cutts' uncle left the courtroom complaining that the family was shoved into a far corner furthest from the window.

Moments before the defendants appeared, three reporters were asked to move so the Davis family could sit in the center of the courtroom.

The uncle said Cutts' family members were the only Black people there. "That's American justice," he said. "We are suffering. We're related to the little baby, too."

Cutts has been charged with two counts of murder. Ohio law allows a murder charge against someone accused of killing a fetus that would have been able to live outside the womb.

Iams said Cutts was suspended without pay Monday by the Canton police department.

Also on Monday, Cutts lost a custody battle over his 9-year-old daughter, Taylor, a lawyer said.

Cutts met Taylor's mother, Nikki Giavasis, when both attended nearby Walsh University. Taylor has lived with Giavasis for most of her life in California, but Cutts challenged the custody arrangement in 2005.

Hours before Cutts' arraignment, Stark County Family Court Judge David Stucki dismissed the case, said Jeffrey Jakmides, a lawyer representing Giavasis. Stucki cited the charges against Cutts as one factor in his decision, Jakmides said.

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Exodus of city Blacks changing face of D.C.

By Nisa Islam Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) - By the year 2020, if demographers' predictions are correct, the nation's capital will no longer be a "Chocolate City," but more of a melting pot of cultures with no one group as the majority, according to U.S. Census Reports released last month.

D.C.'s Black population is declining, while the White and Asian population is increasing.

"The demographics shift means Washington likely will cease to be majority Black by 2020, said Robert E. Lang, director of the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.

He told The Washington Post, "It will wind up more like a Los Angeles or a New York, with no clear majority."

Why are Blacks leaving in record numbers?

"We can't afford to live here," said longtime resident Ronnie Mitchell. "Look at the housing costs; we have to leave. I love D.C., but it costs too much to live here. I can get more for my money in PG [Prince Georges] County."

Experts agree that the lack of affordable housing and gentrification have contributed to the exodus.

"What you see are Whites moving into the city because they are able to afford the pricey housing in all these areas that are

gentrifying and becoming much more middle- and upper-middle class," said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution to the Associated Press.

The change in population is right in line with D.C.'s new 20-year revitalization plans, which include decreasing the hundreds of licensed liquor, beer and wine establishments located throughout the city.

The Washington Afro American reported that many longtime residents believe the plan has been designed to accommodate the wave of Whites who have recently settled in the District from areas not plagued by an overabundance of liquor stores.

"That may be one view," explained 8A Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Anthony Muhammad, "As the city's population changes, White people don't want liquor stores on every corner as they are in the Black neighborhood. They vote and make political contributions to make sure they have the influence to get what they want..."

"Another view is the fact that the city doesn't want to be held liable for the health consequences that come with alcohol consumption. The tobacco industry has been sued because of cigarettes. The alcohol industry can't be far behind."

Muhammad added, "The city has al-

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I CAN FLY

Solo pilot Barrington Irving, 23, of the United States waves after landing at Opa-Locka Airport in Miami, Florida. The Jamaican-American on Wednesday became the youngest person and the first Black pilot to fly solo around the globe as he glided into Miami after a three-month journey he hopes will be an inspiration to inner-city kids in cities all over America.